

2-5-03
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

David Martin Gee

Serial No. Not yet assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

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Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Examiner: N/A

FOR: FAULT TOLERANT ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT AND METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, and 4-7 as follows:

1. An electrical circuit comprising:

a first circuit having associated therewith a first track supporting, in use, a first current; and

a second circuit drawing, in use, a second current, the second circuit located proximate to the first track;

the electrical circuit characterised by:

an electrical shield providing an electrically isolated enclosure, the electrical shield positioned substantially about the first track and such that the shield inhibits, in use, shorting of the

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first track to the second circuit to restrict, in use, substantial summing of the first current with the second current.

2. The electrical circuit of claim 1, wherein the shield, in use and under fault conditions, inhibits establishment of a short circuit supporting flow of a current greater than a predetermined threshold through an electrical component.

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4. The electrical circuit of claim 1, wherein the second circuit is a track.

5. The electrical circuit of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises at least one metal layer within an integrated circuit and at least one via.

6. An electrical device comprising the electrical circuit of claim 1.

7. An integrated circuit or printed circuit board comprising the electrical circuit of claim 1.

Please add the following new claim:

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--9. An integrated circuit or printed circuit board comprising the electrical device of claim 6.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the attached new Abstract.

REMARKS

The above-referenced application is amended to delete the multiple dependencies of claims 4-7 to avoid the multiple dependent claim filing fee, to remove reference numerals from the claims and Abstract and to clarify the meaning of claim 1 to employ the open ended term --comprising--.